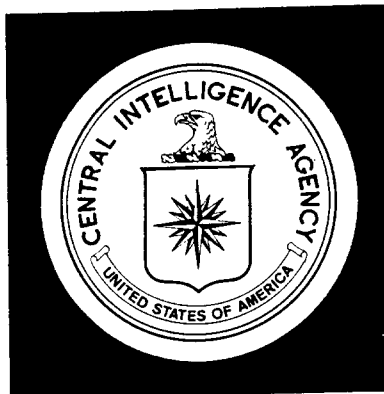


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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

WEEKLY REVIEW

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15 September 1972

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The WEEKLY REVIEW, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology. Topics requiring more comprehensive treatment and therefore published separately as Special Reports are listed in the contents.

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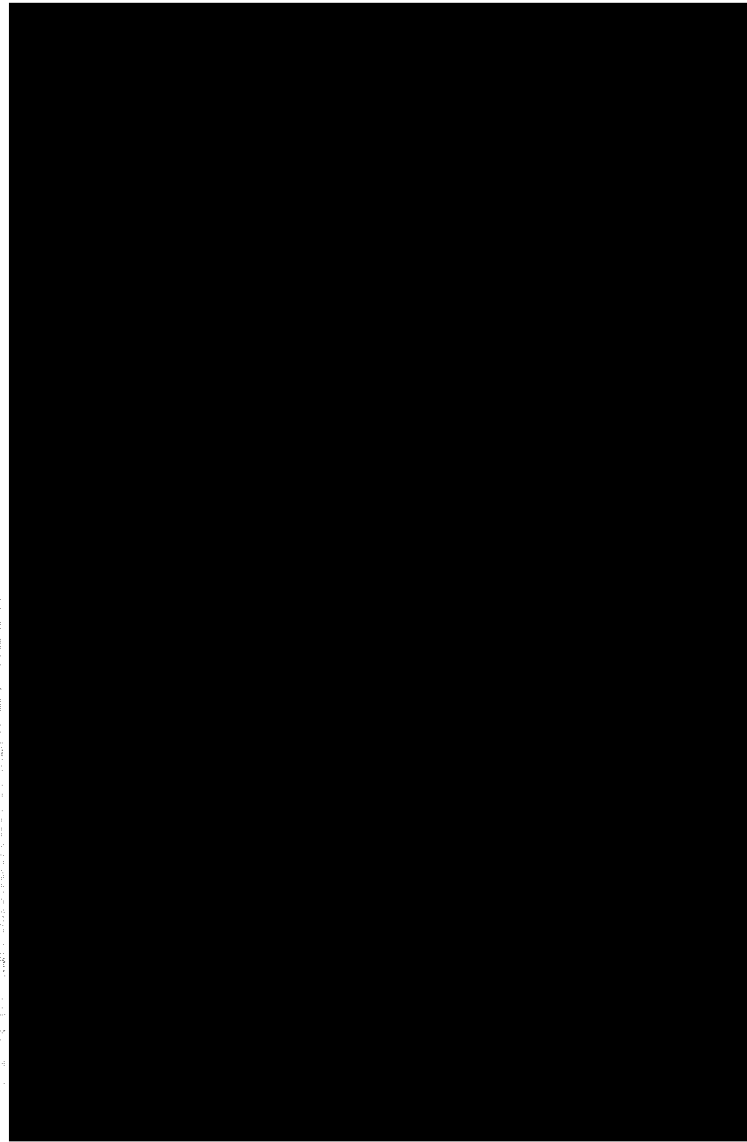
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1 After Munich





AFTER MUNICH

Israel's strikes at Arab terrorist bases three days after the Munich killings are probably only the beginning of an intensified Israeli effort to eradicate the fedayeen as an effective threat. No major ground action by Israeli forces into fedayeen sanctuaries has yet occurred, but this remains a definite possibility, given the obvious intention of the fedayeen to keep the pressure on Israel and focus international attention on the Palestinian cause.

FIRST REPRISALS

In wide-ranging air attacks, one almost reaching the Turkish border, Israeli aircraft on 8 September hit a total of 11 targets, three in Lebanon and eight in Syria. Israeli officials said the sites were all fedayeen installations—headquarters, guerrilla concentrations, training camps, storage areas, and new fedayeen marine bases. The extent of the damage and casualties is not certain, but some 80 aircraft took part, and the Israelis estimate they killed or wounded 100-200 persons. Some of the casualties were civilians, which, the Israelis claim, is unavoidable because the fedayeen place their installations inside or near Palestinian refugee camps. Israeli aircraft

struck southern Syria later on 8 September, and again the next day when they shot down three SU-7s and damaged a fourth. The Syrians had attacked the Golan Heights.

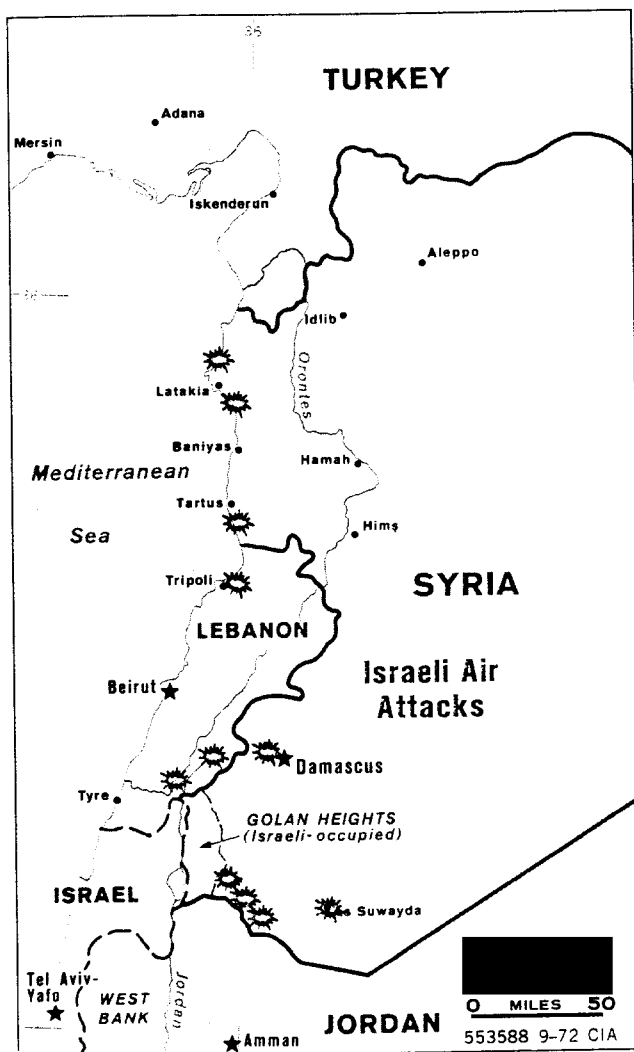
Tel Aviv, in effect, has declared open season on the fedayeen. Minister of Transport Peres spoke of not resting "until terrorism is eradicated." Minister of Commerce and Industry Bar-Lev said Israel should "crush them and annihilate them." Chief of staff General Elazar spoke of mounting a "continuous war," not one "started today and finished tomorrow." Elazar added that air attacks were not the only means of fighting the saboteurs and that Israel will use "many and various means" against them. Prime Minister Meir vowed before the Knesset on 12 September that Israel would strike at terrorism "everywhere our hand can reach it," and the Knesset affirmed this in a unanimous resolution.

In preparation for future action, the Israeli Defense Force has moved eight of its 175-mm. guns, with a range of about 20 miles, into the Golan Heights. Israeli officials have laid all blame and responsibility for the terrorism on the host Arab states and those supporting and encouraging

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them, indicating that Arab government installations—especially in Syria—may come in for their share of Israeli attention.

The determination of the Israelis to end the threat of the fedayeen appears to be matched by the commandos' resolve to continue terrorism and sabotage. Spokesmen for the fedayeen have voiced their elation over the events in Munich and maintain that more attacks will occur sometime within the next two weeks. These attacks will probably be concentrated in the US and Europe.



In another fedayeen attack in Europe, an Israeli Embassy official in Brussels was entrapped on 10 September by an Arab assailant and seriously wounded. Along the Arab-Israeli cease-fire lines, fedayeen continued to engage in sporadic attacks on the Israelis in the Golan Heights and the West Bank. The fedayeen made exaggerated claims on the results, but their attacks have not yet resulted in significant damage or in any casualties.

THE ARAB VIEW

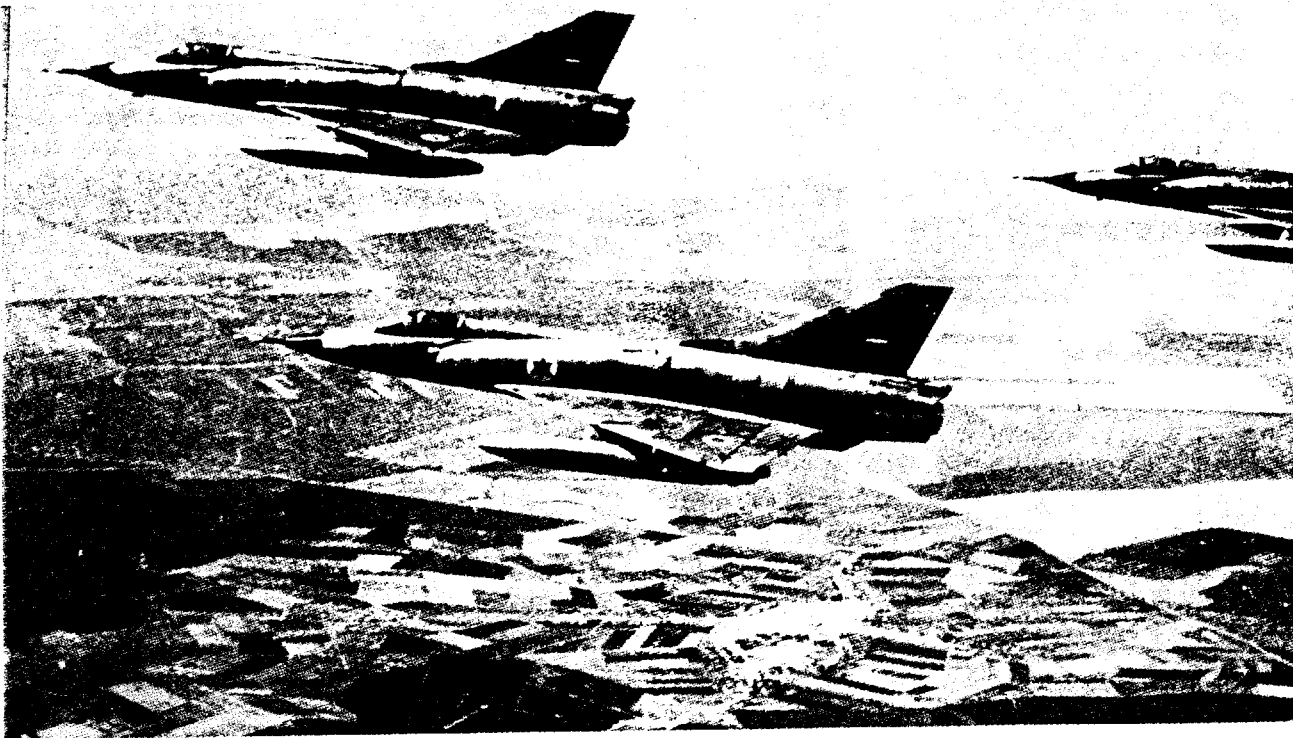
Jordan's King Husayn unequivocally condemned the terrorists' acts in Munich last week, thus isolating himself once again from the mainstream of Arab opinion. While other Arab leaders remained silent or justified the terrorist actions, Husayn in harsh terms denounced the killing of the Israeli hostages as the work of "sick minds" and expressed condolences to the families of the victims, a bold gesture for an Arab head of state. Moreover, the Jordanians apparently sought to avoid embroilment in the subsequent military clashes. There are no indications that Jordanian military units increased their state of readiness in reaction to retaliatory Israeli air strikes in Syria and Lebanon or to the engagements of Syrian and Israeli fighter aircraft.

Most Arab comment, both from official sources and the media, avoided condemnation of the guerrilla tactics. Arab news media turned squarely against the US for its veto of the Security Council resolution that called for an end to violence in the Middle East. The Cairo press accused the US of applying a double standard that deplored the deaths of members of the Israeli Olympic team while at the same time ignoring the victims of Israeli air strikes in Syria and Lebanon.

The Egyptians, anxious not to be associated with the "traitor Husayn," excused the guerrillas responsible for the Munich episode and placed the onus for the loss of life on the West German Government. Perhaps a bit on the defensive, an Egyptian spokesman reacted with considerable sensitivity to West German charges that Cairo did not fully respond to Bonn's appeals for cooperation during the Munich incident. Bitter words

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have been exchanged, but Egypt, anxious for general West European support now that the Soviets have left, is trying to cut its losses.

Arab League foreign ministers, meeting in Cairo this week, voiced a theme dominant in almost all Arab reaction. The ministers insisted on blaming the deaths of the Israelis at the Olympic Games on Israel's "criminal" occupation of the Palestinian homeland.

The Lebanese Government while expressing "deep regret" over Munich, viewed the tragedy as an outgrowth of the Palestinians' despair and their wish to prod the international community to redress their grievances. The grim events in Munich severely shocked Saudi leaders, who privately deplored the killings and allowed scant coverage in the local media. In Algeria, early misgivings about the wisdom of the fedayeen operation gave way to gratification that the Palestinians have the capability to strike boldly and throw fear into the enemy.

The five guerrillas slain in Munich received a final tribute at a funeral on 12 September in Libya. Although the Libyan Government was not publicly involved, officials assisted the private citizens who ostensibly sponsored the funeral services. In view of Qadhafi's strong vocal and financial support of the fedayeen movement, the guerrillas no doubt consider internment in Libya as appropriate.

SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN VIEWS

The fedayeen action at Munich underscored Moscow's limited room for maneuver on Middle East matters. The tragedy came at a time when Soviet support was being seriously questioned by many Arabs. On the one hand, Moscow could not afford to treat the killings in a way that would suggest its support for the Palestine liberation movement was diminishing. On the other hand, the oft-repeated Soviet warning to Palestinian leaders that terrorist tactics are counter-productive was again ignored by the guerrillas,

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driving home to Moscow its lack of control over most events affecting the Middle East.

Soviet media restricted their coverage of the attack to sparse, straightforward accounts. The tone was one of disapproval, but official Soviet expressions of regret have been limited to brief statements by sports representatives. Moscow's East European allies were more outspoken, and their first reaction was to condemn the attack sharply. Most bloc media, however, made an effort to dissociate the Arab governments from the acts of a "few fanatics."

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